MARVEL
© 1987 MARVEL ENT. GROUP INC.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE
55
OCT
ONLY 50¢
INSIDE: EXCITING IRON MAN NEWS!
BRIGHT LAYTON
PLUS: STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX! FRED HEMBECK AND MORE!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

I've got a confession to make. I hate writing.

Now, I realize that isn't the biggest bombshell ever to hit Marveldom Assembled, but you'd be surprised how many of my friends in the comics field are shocked to discover how I feel. It's as if I said I was an axe murderer or I liked kicking sweet little old ladies. They act as if I'm un-American!

Well, here's my explanation. In the wonderful world of comics, I'm something of a voyeur — I like to watch. I like to read comics. I like to watch comics being put together. The creative process is very exciting to me. The joy of editing comics for me is to see my ideas come to life in the hands of my favorite writers and artists. But to be in a room, by myself, staring at a blank things I'd rather be doing. You see, I already know everything I've got to say, and to type it up isn't that much fun. I'd rather be reading what someone else has to say.

I've also come to understand why there are so many egomaniacs in this nutty business. In order to spend as many hours needed to produce a comic book title on a regular basis, you've got to *really* like being with yourself, 'cause that's who you're going to be spending most of your time with! Now, don't get the mistaken impression that I don't like myself (Someone's got to!), it's just that I enjoy being around other people more! Even when I'm by myself, I'm usually reading or watching TV, which is like being around other people, except you don't have to do anything. And I'm not trying to knock comic book writers and artists by calling them egomaniacs either! I think it's healthy and vitally necessary to succeed in this field. Heck, most of my best friends are egomaniacs and I love it!

So now that I've spilled my guts out to you, you may be wondering why I write at all in the first place. Certainly, Marvel Comics isn't deluged with tons of letters begging for more comics to be written by **Jim Salicrup**! The answer is that sometimes I simply can't resist the assignment, the editor can't find anyone else, and I need the money! There! I did it! I admitted I'm nothing more than a buck-chasing hack! But when it comes to putting together MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, I'm an editing fool! So enjoy the rest of this issue, and make sure none of my editors sees this!

— *Jim Salicrup*

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

Jim Salicrup
Editor and Design Director

Dwight Jon Zimmerman
Assistant Editor

Dawn Geiger
Designer

Sholly Fisch
Coming Attractions

Fred Hembeck
Sage of Marvel Age

Craig Anderson **Laura Hitchcock**
Adam Blaustein **Sid Jacobson**
Steve Buccellato **Terry Kavanagh**
Bob Budiansky **Ralph Macchio**
Bobbie Chase **Howard Mackie**
Daniel Chichester **Rosemary**
Margaret Clark **McCormick-Lowy**
Don Daley **Al Milgrom**
Tom DeFalco **John Morelli**
Daryl Edelman **Ann Nocenti**
Archie Goodwin **Carl Potts**
Mark Gruenwald **Pat Redding**
Larry Hama **Mike Rockwitz**
Bob Harras **Marc Siry**
Glenn Herdling **Joanne Spaldo**
Michael Higgins **Greg Wright**
Consulting Editors

John Romita
Art Director

Don Perlin
Managing Art Director

Donald C. Hudson
Rodney Ramos
The Raiders

Jim Novak
Art/Production Coordinator

MARVEL AGENDA

Coming Attractions 1
More Coming Attractions 6
Newswatch 8
Iron Man 9
Marvel Trivia Quiz 13
Stan's Soapbox 14
Hembeck 16
Warriors Three 18
Moebius Graphic Novels 21
New Talent Department 24
The Marvel Age 1975 (Part II) 27
Letters 30

Hector Collazo
Doreen Frederick
Production Assistants

Brenda Mings
Typesetter

Jack Abel
Proofreader

Paul Becton **Janet Jackson**
Julianna Ferriter **George Roussos**
Colorists

Mark Bright and **Bob Layton**
Cover Art

Paul Becton **Ken Lopez**
Alan Bensew **Ed Magalong**
Pat Brosseau **Michael Maier**
Rob Carosella **Eddie Marcaro**
Harry Eisenstein **Susan Marks**
Barbara Johnston **Alan Mintz**
Cindy Kruhm **Bill Oakley**
Vernica Lawlor- **Dumuria Rumph**
Carlin **Peter Watson**
Production

Lynn Cohen
Administrative Manager

Virginia Romita
Traffic Manager

Christine Aurilia **Sue Flaxman**
Tom Fardy **Len Kaminski**
Friendly Assistance

Steve Sheffler
Rights and Permissions Editor

Carol Kalish
Director of Specialty Sales
Peter David
Direct Sales Manager Administrative
Steve Saffel
Promotion Manager

Irving Forbush
Iron Boy

MARVEL AGE® Vol. 1, No. 55, October, 1987. (ISSN #8750-4367) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly.

Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

Price 50¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $6.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL AGE (including all MARVEL titles and prominent MARVEL characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL AGE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Second-Class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.**

MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star**, and **New Universe** titles bearing a **November** cover date.

A new **Captain America**! New directions for **DAREDEVIL** the **THE INCREDIBLE HULK**! The debut of the latest **New Mutant**! And just wait 'til you see what's in store for **Mark Hazzard** in **THE MERC ANNUAL #1**!

That's just a hint of all the exciting things set to happen next month. Don't take a chance on missing out on the fun. Tell your local comics shop owner that you want to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping July 7
On Sale July 28

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #248—Can it be? **Matt Murdock**—back on the road to praticing law? And "blind" once again? It's an awesome "Turnaround" for the Man Without Fear! Written by **Ann Nocenti** and illustrated by **Rick Leonardi**. 75¢.

Power Pack faces its greatest foe — Trash! Penciled by Jon Bogdanove and inked by Hilary Barta.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE MORITURI #12**—The first and second generation **Morituri** have escaped Earth in a **Horde** ship. Why? Have they gone to the other side? And why is **Strikeforce Commander Beth Luis Nion** dying? Could she have taken the **Morituri** process herself? "Birthgrave" is written by **Peter B. Gillis** and penciled by **Brent Anderson**. 75¢.

☐ **NEW MUTANTS #57**—Step right up and meet the newest **New Mutant—Birdbrain!** Learn more about **Birdbrain** as he's initiated into life at Xavier's School and discovers that it "Takes One to Know One." Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #32**—In Part 4 of the epic **Spider-Man vs. Kraven** battle, **Spider-Man** rises from the grave—and he's *not* happy! "Resurrection" is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #26**—At last, it's the all-out final battle between the human and android versions of the criminal **Zodiac** cartel in "What Is Scorpio?" Scripted by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #10**—What? **He-Man** *afraid?* The astonishing answer is *yes!* And the secret of what his greatest fear is and what he must do to conquer it is found in "Courage." Written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS #17**—Just when the **Thundercats** thought they'd seen it all . . . Join them as they witness the awesome power of the **Doom Gaze** in "Time Capsule." Scripted by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **José Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Simons**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING #43**—It's a perilous journey across the seas as **King Conan** lays siege to the far-off city of **Argos** in a bloody "Conquest"! Written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. $1.25.

☐ **ROBOCOP #1**—Step into the future and meet **Robocop**, the half-man, half-machine cyborg policeman. But while many things may be different in the future, criminals are still as dangerous as ever! A Marvel Magazine, adapted from the motion picture by scripter **Bob Harras** and penciler **Javier Saltares**. $2.00.

new universe™

☐ **THE MERC ANNUAL #1**—Not a hoax! Not a dream! It's the death of **Marc Hazzard** and the introduction of the new **Merc** in what might just be the biggest shocker of the year! Scripted by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Vincent Waller**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**, with a cover by **Mike Zeck** and **Bob McLeod**. $1.25.

☐ **PSI FORCE #13**—**Stasi** tries to aid an old family friend, but finds it might cost her freedom! Can **Psi Force** take on an entire Russian Consulate, or will they be helpless against "Diplomatic Immunity?" Written by **Fabian Nicieza** and penciled by **Javier Saltares**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping July 14
On Sale August 4

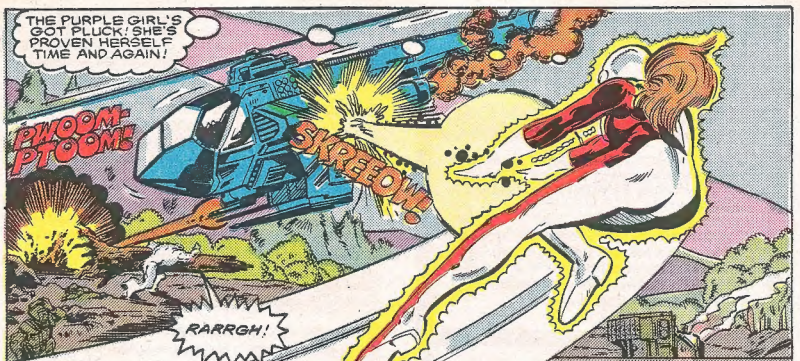
☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #52**—As the Canadian Government becomes increasingly suspicious of **Alpha Flight**, a spy is sent in to infiltrate the group! Will **Alpha Flight** detect the intruder in time? "Specters of the Past" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and penciled by **June Brigman**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #335**—It's a "Baptism of Fire" for the new **Captain America** as he battles a militant right-wing group called the **Watchdogs**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan** and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #8**—The rip-roaring wrap-up to the Limited Series blows the lid off the plot surrounding **Ariel**! Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

Spider-Man wants Kraven — and wait'll you see what happens when he finds him!



Alpha Flight fights for its life against the Canadian government

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #294—**Spider-Man** confronts **Kraven the Hunter** in Part 5 of this 6-part saga. **Kraven** beat **Spidey** the last time; can he—*will* he do it again? "Thunder" is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #8—Two series in one classic title doubles the suspense—and *how!*

Now that **Doctor Strange** has become increasingly dependent on black magic, he faces an agonizing decision as he battles **Kaluu** in "If You Meet the Buddha on the Road, Kill Him." Written by **Peter B. Gillis**.

Black magic doesn't sound so bad to **Tyrone** either—not if it will turn him and **Tandy** back into **Cloak** and **Dagger**! "Black Tear" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and penciled by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #33—**Groo** takes to the high seas in search of pirates. And the result is an ocean of trouble for friend and foe alike! By **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEADMASTERS (Limited Series)** #3—The **Decepticons** come to the realization that the only way to defeat the **Autobots** is to become **Headmasters** themselves! Can the **Autobots** overcome this deadly threat? Written by **Bob Budlansky**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE** #4—**Heathcliff** in the Army? That's what Army red tape and mismanaged computers can cause. Poor **Heathcliff**! Hey, wait a minute—better take pity on the United States Army! "You're in the Army Meow" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7 ANNUAL** #1—Meet the New Universe's latest paranormal, the **Witness**! The **Witness** saw each of the **D.P. 7** members manifest his power for the first time, and so will you in "Origins." Scripted by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Lee Weeks**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. $1.25.

☐ **VIDEO JACK** #1—An out of control experiment, misfortunes and pranks thrust a small Anytown, U.S.A. into a bizarre dimension beyond sight and sound . . . And the only thing that can save it is **Video Jack**! Written by **Cary Bates** with art by **Keith Giffen**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #6—Reprinting classic tales from **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #s 68–70. **Spider-Man** is hunted by the police *and* the **Kingpin**! What is the secret of the mysterious clay tablet web-head has? "Crisis on the Campus," "Mission: Crush the Kingpin," and "Spider-Man Wanted" are written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #141—**Conan** encounters the customs and beliefs of the **Vanir** . . . will he survive the experience? "Crimson Citadel" is written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE ORDER OF BATTLE Trade Paperback**—The complete low-down on all the **Joes**, **Cobras**, and **Dreadnoks** is at last all together in one handy paperback book! If you're a **G.I. JOE** buff, you can't afford to miss it! 128 pages. $5.95.

☐ **MOEBIUS** #2: **"ARZACH AND OTHER FANTASY STORIES"**: The eerie adventures of the pterodactyl-riding warrior **Arzach** as he seeks love and companionship in a desolate world of ruins and monsters. Also: "The Detour," an autobiographical fantasy. Plus five new pages of art! Written and drawn by Moebius. An Epic Graphic Novel. 72 pages. $9.95.

Titles Shipping July 21
On Sale August 11

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #56—Special feature on **G.I. Joe** with inside information on the new **Joes**! Plus **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, the Marvel Age Calendar, and all the regular features you've come to expect! Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #285—It's the dramatic finale to the war between the **Avengers** and the **Olympian gods**! But can even the **Avengers** survive the wrath of **Zeus**? "Twilight of the Gods" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7** #13—Learn the untold life story of **Charly Beck** in "Everything Is Beautiful at the Ballet." Written by **Peter David** and penciled by **Lee Weeks**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #13—Two Bonnie-and-Clyde-type murderers discover the meaning of fear when their killing spree puts **Justice** on their trail. Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Keith Giffen**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #337—The end of the **Hulkbusters**! The final fate of **Gamma Base**! The start of the quest for the Gamma Bomb! All this and **X-Factor** too! A new direction for the series is established in "Crossroads." Scripted by **Peter David** and penciled by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #205—Re-presenting a classic tale from **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #69 written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Ricardo Villamonte**. **Spider-Man** teams with the **X-Men's Havok** to battle the incredible might of the **Living Pharaoh**—and even their power isn't enough to stop him! Plus an all-new tale of **Peter Porker, the Spectacular Spider-Ham** written by **Steve Mellor** and penciled by **Joe Albelo**. 75¢.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #4—**The Punisher** confronts the malevolent leader of a dedicated (not to mention well-armed) cult! Can even the **Punisher** thwart the plans of "The Rev"? Written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #5—For five billion years the **Elder of the Universe Obliterator** has been annihilating galaxies. Now his sights are set on the **Silver Surfer** and **Mentis**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY** #1—The classic cartoon heroes and villains of television **Bullwinkle J. Moose, Rocket J. Squirrel, Mr. Peabody**, his boy **Sherman, Dudley Doright** of the Mounties, **Nell, Snidely Whiplash, Boris Badenov** and **Natasha Fatale** return in the all-new comic book series from Star! As wacky as that cast is, wait'll you see the new nemeses **Baron von Schtunk** and his sidekick **Schulz**! Will **Bullwinkle** and **Rocky** disappear before they have a chance to begin their first adventure? **Boris** and **Natasha** hatch their most cunning plan yet to get rid of Moose and Squirrel in "The Invisible Ray." Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Jacquelinie Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #223—**Storm** takes on some native Indian demons in a quest to regain her powers and to save—or kill—**Forge**! Plus: **Crimson Commando, Stonewall**, and **Super Sabre** join the **Freedom Force**. "Omens And Portents" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **AIR RAIDERS** #1—The plucky **Air Raiders** band together to overthrow the evil monarch **Aerozar** who withholds the only breathable air in Airlandia from its people! Join this intrepid group of freedom fighters in their breathless battle ory, "Free air for free people!" Written by **Howard Mackie** and illustrated by **Kelley Jones**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #65—The war between the **Joes** and **Cobra** takes to space in "Shuttle Complex!" Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #24—Relive one of the greatest moments in Marvel history—the first appearance of **Galactus** and the **Silver Surfer**! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with a cover by **Art Adams**. $1.00.

Wolverine vs. Sabertooth . . . their deadliest battle yet in X-MEN!

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #16—Ever wonder what the face of the **Muppet Babies' Nanny** looks like? Well, in this off-the-wall spy mystery, the **Muppet Babies** have to describe **Nanny**, and the result is full of surprises! "We Spy!" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and penciled and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #22—**Cameron Hodge** reveals the truth about himself! **The Right** kidnaps the children in **X-Factor's** charge! It's the first chapter in a searing four-part saga that will change the future *and* the ranks of **X-Factor** forever! Written by **Louise Simonson**, guest-penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #13—The **Care Bears** love to love, but will even they be willing to cuddle up to their gross guest stars? Find out what happens when "The Care Bears Meet the Madballs!" Written by **Michael Gallagher**, pencked by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #15—Re-presenting the classic adventure from **X-MEN** #108: the **X-Men** in space face "Armageddon Now." Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: an all-new story that reveals "The Origin of The Star-Jammers" written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #28—Events are set in motion leading up to a titanic war between the **Elves** and the **Trolls**! And what is "The Treasure"? Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #200—**The Devourer of Souls** prepares to destroy all life on Earth in this 48-page anniversary spectacular! How can **Conan** possibly save the world and bring about "The Fall of Acheron"? Scripted by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #35—**The Warriors Three's** epic quest to save Asgard continues. A groom has been magically transformed into a goat before his wedding. And if the **Warriors** can't help restore him in time, it could mean the end of Asgard! Written by **Alan Zelenetz** and illustrated by **Charles Vess**. Direct sales only. $1.50.

Titles Shipping July 28
On Sale August 18

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #308—The **PF** meet the sensational new **Ms. Marvel**! But there's little time for socializing, thanks to an unusual new villain. He's the leader of an entire Arab nation, and he's not a nice guy! He's "Fasaud"! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #224—Once they were enemies, but now **Iron Man** must help **Force** escape the wrath of **Justin Hammer** in "Low Noon." Scripted by **David Michelinie** and penciled and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #12—**Cpl. Ed Marks** may be getting ready to end his tour of duty, but he's still got to go out on patrol. And while there, he witnesses the first use of the toxic defoliant, Agent Orange! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #132—The shocking conclusion to the story which spanned two months and all three **SPIDER-MAN** titles! **Spidey** must undo the damage that **Kraven** caused during his brief tenure as **Spider-Man**—he must restore some semblance of sanity to the mad creature known as **Vermin**. "Ascending" is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **STAR BRAND** #10—**Ken Connell** begins to doubt the origin of his powers. But the truth may turn out to be more than he expects when he finds himself at the center of an intergalactic war! Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood**, and inked by **Art Nichols**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #385—**Thor** meets the **Celtic gods** . . . but will they wind up being friends or foes? You'll learn the surprising answer in "When Warriors Clash!" Written by **Tom DeFalco** and illustrated by **Ron Frenz**. 75¢.

☐ **POWER PACK** #33—When **Power Pack** learns that **Sunspot** feels too insecure to rejoin **the New Mutants**, they come up with what they think is a foolproof plan: They'll pose as super-villains and let him "capture" them! But the kids soon learn that their plan is far from foolproof in "To Tell the Truth!" Written by **Louise Simonson** and penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #34—The **Transformers** face their greatest nemesis—the incredible **Man of Iron**! The first of a special two-part saga first published in Great Britain, written by **Steve Parkhouse**, penciled by **John Ridgway**, and inked by **Mike Collins**. $1.00.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #7—It's off to the South of France for **Peter** and his blushing bride, **Mary Jane**, as they set off for a fun-filled, carefree honeymoon. But the trip takes an unexpected turn when **Peter** accepts an offer from none other than the **Puma**! Written by **James Owsley**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, and inked by **Jim Fern**. $1.25.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE** #6—Re-introducing the unbridled power of the **Prime Matrix**! "The Prime Matrix Awakens" and "Optimus Gives Buster the Prime Matrix" are re-presented from **THE TRANSFORMERS** #s 11 and 12. Plus: more biographies of your favorite **Transformers**! A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

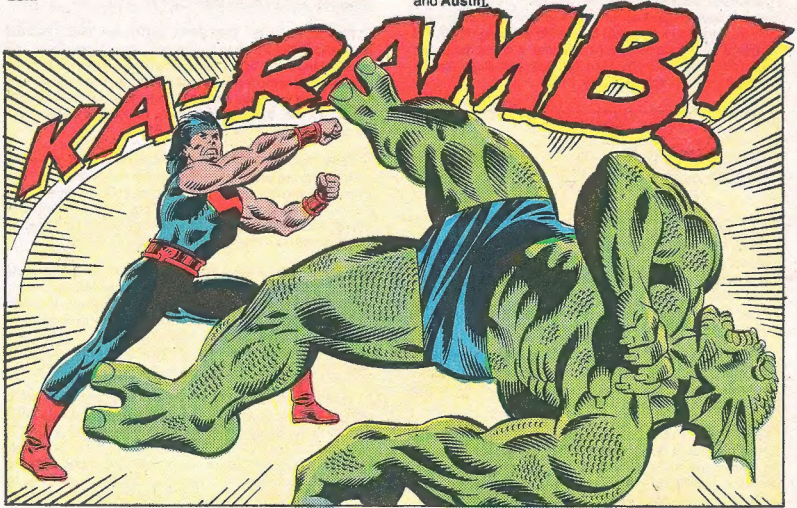
☐ **CONAN SAGA** #6—Re-presenting in black-and-white another three **Conan** classics: "The Frost Giant's Daughter," "The Gods of Bal Sagoth," and "The Thing in the Temple" from **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #s 16–18. Each is by the original **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** team of writer **Roy Thomas** and illustrator **Barry Windsor-Smith**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #4—The chronicles of the adventures of someodm's most popular mutants continue! This issue covers **X-MEN** #s 71–93, paving the way for the debut of the new **X-Men**! Each story is summarized and cross-referenced with full-page, full-color reproductions of every cover. Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping August

DAREDEVIL #249—by **Nocenti** and **Leonardi**.
NEW MUTANTS #58—by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin**.
PSI FORCE #14—by **Fingeroth**.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #33—by **Nocenti** and **Martin**.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #27—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan**.
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #8—by **Hama** and **Trimpe**.
HUGGA BUNCH #8
THUNDERCATS #18
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #13—by **Gillis** and **Anderson**.
ALPHA FLIGHT #53—by **Mantlo** and **Lee**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #336—by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan**
SOLO AVENGERS #1
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #295—by **Nocenti** and **Martin**
STRANGE TALES #9—by **Gillis, Mantlo,** and **Blevins**.
GROO THE WANDERER #34—by **Aragones** with **Evanier**.
HEATHCLIFF #19—by **Gallagher, Kremer,** and **Roettcher**.
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #7
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #142
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #57
AVENGERS #286—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer**.
D.P. 7 #14—by **Gruenwald**.
INCREDIBLE HULK #338—by **David** and **McFarlane**.
JUSTICE #14—by **Conway**.
MARVEL TALES #206—by **Claremont, Byrne, Hunt, Mellor,** and **Albelo**.
SILVER SURFER #6—by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein**.
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #224—by **Claremont, Gammill,** and **Green**.
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #201—by **Owsley** and **Kubert**.
FLINTSTONE KIDS #3
FOOFUR #3
G.I. JOE #66—by **Hama** and **Wagner**.
THE MARVEL SAGA #25—by **Sanderson**.
SILVERHAWKS #3—by **Perry, Witherby,** and **Sanders**.
MARSHAL LAW #1—by **O'Neill** and **Mills**.
FANTASTIC FOUR #309—by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **Sinnott**.
IRON MAN #225—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton**.
THE 'NAM #13—by **Murray, Golden,** and **Gil**.
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #133
THOR #386—by **DeFalco** and **Frenz**.
X-FACTOR #23—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek**.
CLASSIC X-MEN #16—by **Claremont, Byrne, Bolton,** and **Austin**.

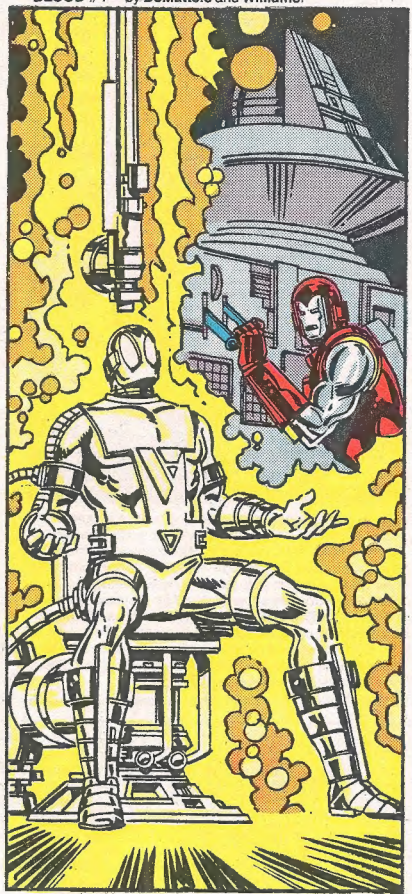


Wonder Man and the Abomination duke it out in WEST COAST AVENGERS.

ELFQUEST #29—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
MADBALLS #7
THE TRANSFORMERS #35—by **Parkhouse, Ridgway,** and **Collins.**
G.I. JOE DIGEST #7
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #19—by **Sanderson.**
ALIEN LEGION Vol. 2, #1—by **Zelenetz, Stroman,** and **Emberlin.**
CONAN SAGA #7—by **Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #4—compiled by **Olshevsky.**

Titles Shipping September

DAREDEVIL #250—by **Nocenti** and **Leonardi.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #59—by **L. Simonson** and **Muth.**
PSI FORCE #15—by **Fingeroth.**
THE PUNISHER #5—by **Baron** and **Janson.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #34—by **Owsley** and **S. Buscema.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #26—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #11—by **Caragonne, Wilson,** and **Bulanadi.**
THUNDERCATS #19
CONAN THE KING #44—by **Kraar** and **Docherty.**
TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE (Trade Paperback)—by **Budiansky, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #14—by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #54—by **Mantlo** and **Lee.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #337—by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan**
SOLO AVENGERS #2
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #296—by **Michelinie** and **Saviuk.**
STRANGE TALES #10—by **Gillis, Mantlo,** and **Blevins.**
EWOKS #17
GROO THE WANDERER #35—by **Aragonés** and **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #5—by **Gallagher, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #143
POWER PACK #34—by **L. Simonson** and **Bogdanove.**
VIDEO JACK #2—by **Bates** and **Giffen.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #7
MOEBIUS Graphic Novel #3—by **Moebius.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #57
AVENGERS #287—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #15—by **Gruenwald** and **Ryan.**
INCREDIBLE HULK #339—by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #15—by **Conway.**
MARVEL TALES #207—by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Hunt.**
SILVER SURFER #7—by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #225—by **Claremont, Gammill,** and **Green.**
AIR RAIDERS #2—by **Mackie** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #202—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
G.I. JOE #67—by **Hama** and **Wagner.**
MUPPET BABIES #17—by **Kay** and **M. Severin.**
MARVEL FANFARE #36—by **Zelenetz** and **Vess.**
SOMEPLACE STRANGE Graphic Novel—by **Nocenti.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #310—by **Englehart, Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #226—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #14—by **Murray** and **Golden.**
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #134—by **David, S. Buscema,** and **Colletta.**
STAR BRAND #11—by **R. Thomas.**
THOR #387—by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #24—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #14
CLASSIC X-MEN #17—by **Claremont, Byrne, Bolton,** and **Austin.**
ELFQUEST #30—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #36—by **Budiansky** and **Delbo.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE #7
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #7 Trade Paperback
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #5—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #8—by **R. Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
HELLRIDER #1—by **Jusko.**
BLOOD #1—by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**



Iron Man short-circuits Force to keep him alive.

NEWSWATCH

John Romita, Sr.

Don Perlin

New faces! New Universe! New projects! And No-Prizes!

ITEM: With so many comics coming out every month, and with so many more new projects in the works, the responsibilities of Art Director here at Marvel have become more than what even the titanically-talented **John Romita Sr.** can handle. So, to help him out, we've brought in **Don Perlin**! You probably know **Don** best for his pulse-pounding penciling on **THE TRANSFORMERS**. **John** will now be in charge of our cover designs, and **Don** will be overseeing all the touch-up work on our stories. **Don** will also be in charge of our apprenticeship program for promising young artists, the **Raiders**! Congratulations, **Don**!

ITEM: Remember our big **New Universe Super Sleuth Sweepstakes** a few months back? Well, the entries are all in and the winners selected. So here they are:

The lucky second prize winners (each of whom received a twelve month subscription to the New Universe title of his choice as well as an official Marvel Comics jacket) were **Michael A. Scoggins** of Oakland, CA, **Robert Orr** of North Shore, CA, **Emery V. Swagerty** of Hugoton, KS, **David Davis** of Haleyville, AL, **Robert Cosby** of Salem, KY, **John Sloan Carroll** of Rocky Mount, VA, **Derek Gordon** of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, **Doug Simonton** of Katy, TX, **Ben Sanford** of Longmeadow, MA, and **Freddy King** of Flushing, NY. First prizes (six month subscriptions to all eight New Universe titles and Marvel jackets) went to **John Wolf** of Sucasunna, NJ, **Lim Bee Khiam** of Singapore, **Greg Krumm** of Indialantic, FL, and **Jeffrey Brace** of Red Bank, NJ. And **Joe Allman** of Seymour, IN walked off with the grand prize—a twelve month subscription to all eight New Universe titles, a Marvel jacket, and some original New Universe artwork!

Thanks to everyone who entered. And congratulations to all you winners. Wear those jackets proudly!

ITEM: And as long as we're congratulating people, how about a hearty round of applause for **Ronald Morgan** of Norwalk, CT? Ronald was the first one to answer our challenge in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #51 and tell us how many times **THE X-MEN** has held the top position in our Top Ten, as well as which other issues managed to push it out of the #1 slot! (Lots of other folks also rose to our challenge, but Ronald was the first.)

By Ronald's count, **THE X-MEN** was #1 eleven times as of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #51. The series that beat out **THE X-MEN** were **THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II**, **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS** (twice, with **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE Limited Series** pushing **X-MEN** down to #3 one month), **SECRET WARS II** (seven times!), **X-FACTOR** (four times), **CLASSIC X-MEN**, and **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS**.

Your solar-powered, digital No-Prize is on the way, **Ronald**! And by the way, can you also help us balance our checkbook?

ITEM: Elsewhere in this issue, you can find all the details on the upcoming Graphic Novels by world famous French writer/artist **Jean (Moebius) Giraud**. But even after you read the article, keep your eyes peeled. Advertisements for the Graphic Novels will be popping up in some unexpected places—including the pages of the rock newsmagazine **ROLLING STONE** in June! Hey, who says we're not hip?

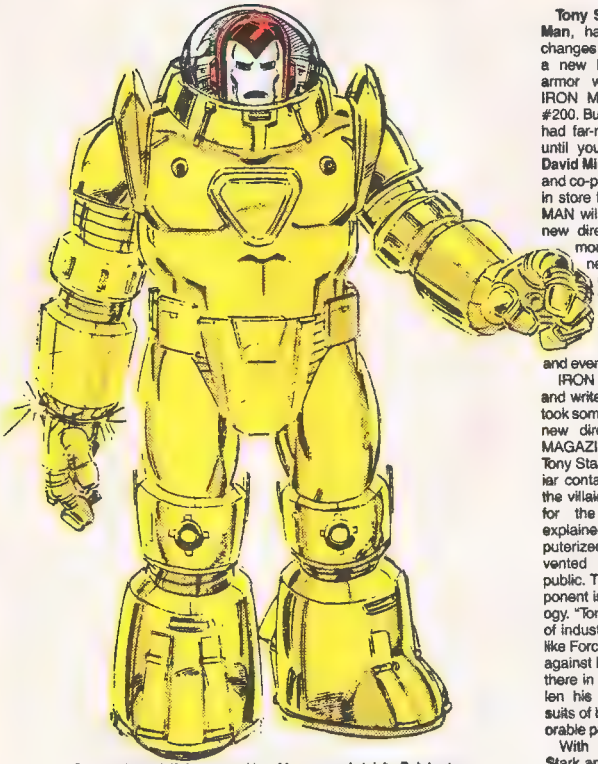
THE TOP TEN

Just when you thought it was safe to turn the page . . . Marvel's Top Ten strikes again! This month's list of the best selling direct sales titles is for March, 1987 and is compiled by our perky Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**.

1—**PUNISHER #1**
2—**X-MEN #219**
3—**SILVER SURFER #1**
4—**X-FACTOR #18**
5—**THE AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #4**
6—**G.I. JOE #61**
7—**FALLEN ANGELS #4**
8—**MEPHISTO VS. THE AVENGERS #4**
9—**CLASSIC X-MEN #11**
10—**THE 'NAM #8**

IRON MAN

THE NEW DIRECTION

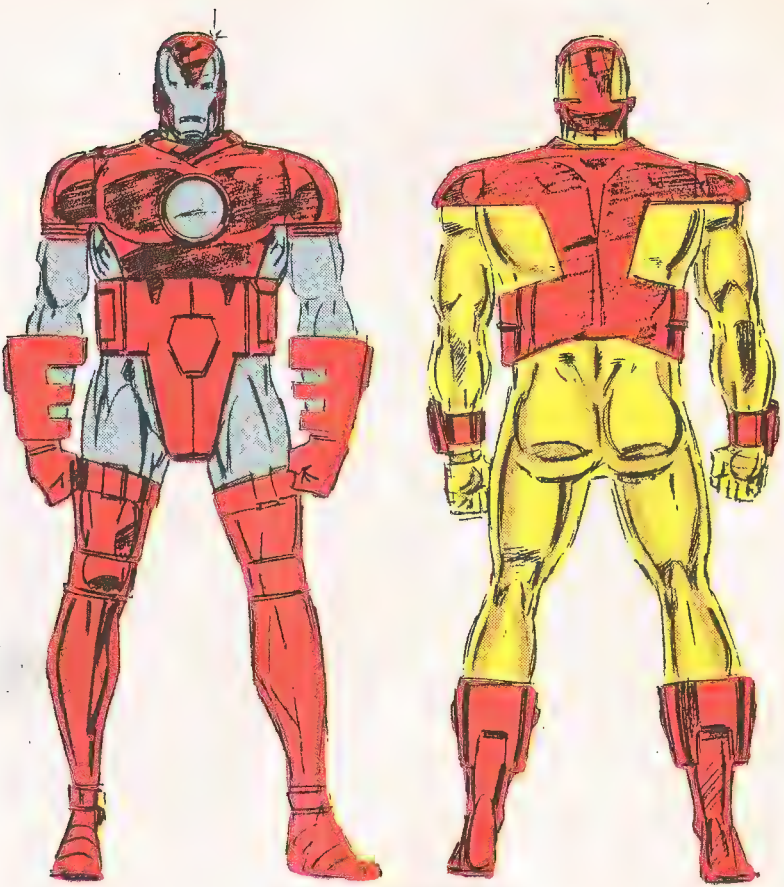


This year's model? A proposed Iron Man armor sketch by Bob Layton.

Tony Stark and his alter-ego, **Iron Man**, have been through a lot of changes recently. A new business, a new locale, and a new suit of armor were all part of the new IRON MAN that emerged in issue #200. But if you thought those changes had far-reaching repercussions, wait until you see what writer/co-plotter **David Michelinie**, penciler **Mark Bright**, and co-plotter/inker **Bob Layton** have in store for the months ahead! IRON MAN will be setting off in an entirely new direction that will take the Armored Avenger down roads he's never traveled before. These unexplored paths are paved with obsession, vengeance, and criminal activity. And waiting at the end of these roads is notoriety, infamy, and even death!

IRON MAN editor **Mark Gruenwald** and writer/co-plotter David Michelinie took some time to discuss this startling new direction with MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. "Starting in issue #225 Tony Stark discovers something familiar contained in the armor of **Force**, the villain Iron Man has been fighting for the last two issues," Mark explained. What Tony finds is a computerized circuit that he himself invented but never released to the public. This circuit is an integral component in his Iron Man armor technology. "Tony realizes he's been a victim of industrial sabotage. And if a villain like Force is using his own technology against him, who knows who else out there in the Marvel Universe has stolen his inventions to create similar suits of battle armor for less than honorable purposes," Mark said.

With this terrible discovery, Tony Stark and Iron Man take the first step onto that unexplored road toward a



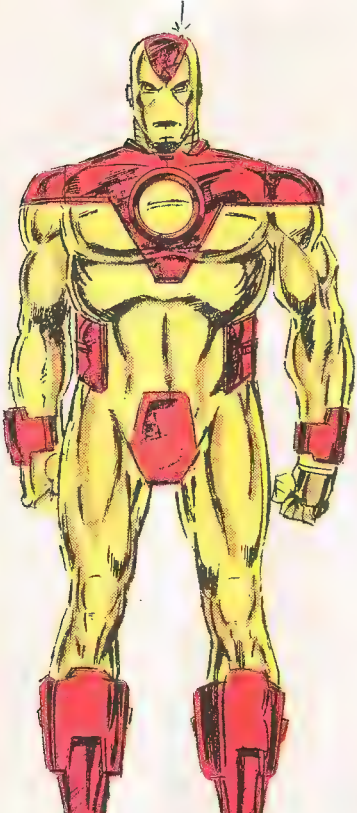
More Iron Man armor sketches by Bob Layton.

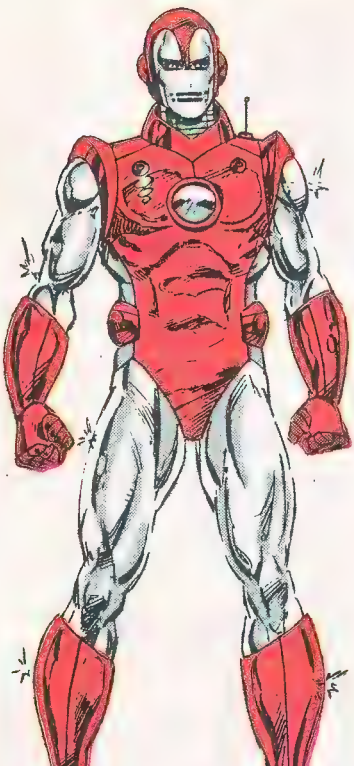
new direction. "The technology behind the Iron Man technology has fallen into the wrong hands," David explained. "There are quite a few armored bad guys in the world and each is potentially using Tony's technology for evil purposes. And any of them could be the thief who stole his invention originally."

It's this knowledge that puts Tony Stark firmly on the path of vengeance and obsession. "All the damage, destruction, pain, and even death that these various armored bad guys have caused is Tony's responsibility because he invented the technology that gave them the power to do the things they've done," David said. So for the next five or six issues Iron Man is going to be a vengeful kind of hero, investigating and hunting down every person in the Marvel Universe who uses armor of any sort.

Of course, Stark Enterprises tries to go through the legal system first in order to stop the unauthorized use of its technology. But the legal system is so convoluted that it would take years just to work a complaint through the courts. Tony Stark believes something must be done now, so Iron Man goes on the prowl.

"Stark invents a device that recognizes his technology or determines if a piece of hardware was invented independently," Mark said. "Iron Man will take on a virtual who's who of armored characters—**the Controller, the Mauler, the Raiders, Stiltman, Stingray, the Guardsmen.** Most of these people are villains, but some are heroes as well."





Tony Stark becomes increasingly obsessed with stopping the evil that is being done with his technology. This is a pivotal turning point in Iron Man's career. "In the past Iron Man has been a bodyguard. He has been there when the bad guys showed up to go after him, or Stark, or Stark Enterprises. Now he is actually going out looking for trouble. He becomes a literal avenger in every sense of the word," David explained. "That is the different direction for Iron Man."

But there are loads of problems that go along with this new role, especially as relates to Stark's obsession to right the wrongs he feels his stolen technology has wrought. Not only is Iron Man searching out and attacking various armored evil-doers, he is also going to take on some good guys as well. "If you go out and trash a known villain such as the Controller you may be forgiven. But if you trash the heroes too, people start to get funny ideas about you. In the case of the Guardsmen, these are government employees and trashing them is a big no-no," Mark said. "That's not half as bad as when Iron Man decides to break national and international law by going to the Soviet Union to see if **Crimson Dynamo** and **Titanium Man** have ripped him off, too."

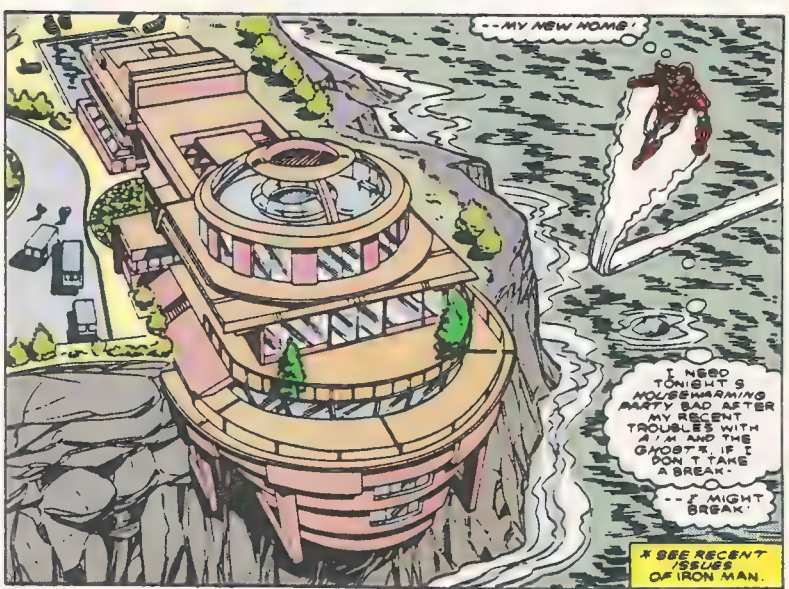
You might imagine that all this vigilante activity doesn't sit well with the general public. Stark Enterprises is going to have to deal with the negative image a rogue Iron Man conjures up. And **the West Coast Avengers** aren't going to be very thrilled with a law-breaking member in their midst either.

"He's making them look bad, especially once he starts messing with our government and other governments," Mark said.

Where is all this leading? Will Iron Man be fired by Stark Enterprises? Can Tony curb this new obsession and thirst for vengeance that is destroying everything he has worked so hard to rebuild? How are the West Coast Avengers going to respond to the problem? All these questions and more will be answered in the months ahead as Iron Man travels around the country and around the world to recover the technology Tony Stark created. Along the way, Mark and David plan to do a crossover story that takes the tale from the pages of IRON MAN to the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA and back again. "The plot ties in with the CAPTAIN AMERICA storyline concerning **Steve Rogers**' resignation from government service. We'll get to contrast the needs and wants of the men behind the masks in these issues, focusing on Steve Rogers and Tony Stark," Mark said.

Throughout the next few months Iron Man will be changing, becoming something darker than he was, something less pure. "Iron Man becomes, in essence, a criminal, wreaking all kinds of national and international havoc," David explained. "In the eyes of the world he has gone renegade and must be destroyed." Stark nemesis **Justin Hammer**, **S.H.I.E.L.D.**, the West Coast Avengers, and **Captain America** all become involved as Iron Man travels farther down this unexplored road. And what will Iron Man and Tony Stark find at the end of this road littered with shattered armor, stolen technology, and broken foes—heroes and villains alike? "This new direction leads toward death," David said, "toward an ending, and, perhaps, toward a new beginning."

—Bill Slavicsek


--MY NEW HOME!
I NEED TONIGHT'S HOUSEWARMING PARTY BAD AFTER MY RECENT TROUBLES WITH A.I.M AND THE GHOST*. IF I DON'T TAKE A BREAK--
--I MIGHT BREAK!
* SEE RECENT ISSUES OF IRON MAN.

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

When I heard that **Iron Man** was to be cover-featured in this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, I responded, "No problem." Shell-Head and I go way back — I'd have twenty questions on him in no time.

Then it struck me just how far the Golden Avenger and I do go back. Iron Man was the first Marvel hero I ever encountered, twenty years ago in the old TALES OF SUSPENSE. He beat out **Captain America** for this honor through his fortune at being placed in the front of the book. It was the second half of a continued story, and I had a lot of catching up to do—**Tony Stark** was being held prisoner by **the Mandarin**, and forced to create a new weapon for him, unable to get to his Iron Man armor. Ultimately he whipped out his old, bulky armor and used that to defeat the fiend—hence the title, "The Golden Ghost."

But the catching up I had to do involved more than plot details. At a mere eight years old, I was amazed by the implications of what I had just read. A hero who had old uniforms in storage, different from the one he used today? A story you came in on the middle of? Characters who changed over time? It was a whole different approach to comics that was visible in any Marvel you picked up back then. Needless to say, I was buying up Marvel back issues before you could say, "Excelsior!"

While I go floating off in a sea of nostalgia, here's this month's quiz, already! Questions begin with current and recent facts, and then move further and further back toward days of yore—as always, answers are on page 32.

—Brian Nelson

1. The name of one of Iron Man's recent foes was inspired by famous astronomer **Tycho Brahe**—but this villain has nothing to do with stargazing. Who is he?

2. **Marcy Pearson** was just hired as Stark Enterprises' new head of public relations—what firm did Tony hire her away from?

3. Who is the **Iron Man of 2020**?

4. Which of these Marvel stars has never co-starred with Shell-Head in an IRON MAN ANNUAL: **the Champions**, **Dr. Strange**, **Man-Thing**, or **X-Factor**?

5. Under what alias did **the Spymaster** dupe **Happy Hogan** in order to gain access to Tony Stark?

6. When one thinks of the women in Stark's life, everyone recalls **Bethany Cabe**—but do you also recall her equally lovely business partner?

7. Which villain, recently killed by **Scourge**, had learned Iron Man's secret identity nearly ten years before, but inexplicably never did anything about it?

8. And speaking of that secret identity, which of these characters never learned it: **Tigra**, **Kevin O'Brien**, **Mrs. Arbogast**, **Don Blake**, **Madame Masque**, or **Marianne Rodgers**?

9. How many issues of MARVEL TEAM-UP did Iron Man co-star in?

10. What were the names of Tony Stark's parents?

11. Whose death alienated Madame Masque from Tony, sending her out of his life for years only to return as his dire nemesis?

12. And under what name did Madame Masque masquerade for months as a member of his Stark International staff?

13. In the mid-70s, Tony felt his armor looked a little too cold, inhuman, emotionless. What design feature did he use to try to correct this?

14. What silver-haired nemesis did Iron Man battle in the first double-sized issue of his regular series?

15. **Jim Rhodes** was not the first man to substitute for Tony as Iron Man—not even the first black man. What black boxer did Tony draft as a replacement when a heart operation meant he no longer needed the Iron Man armor?

16. Who created **Cerebrus**, a monstrous computer which ruled the 24th century until Iron Man traveled forward in time to defeat it?

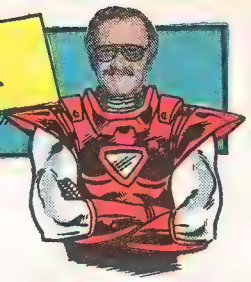
17. Shell-Head shared TALES OF SUSPENSE for years with Cap—but before getting his own book, he co-starred with what other Marvel hero for one single issue?

18. Iron Man's early series was one of the only features that could claim a member of Congress among its supporting cast—what was his name?

19. What legendary Marvel character was introduced in TALES OF SUSPENSE speaking the words, "You sent for me, comrade leader?"

20. What Asian scientist sacrificed himself to give Iron Man the chance to be born?

STAN'S SOAPBOX



Hey, waddaya know? Ye elucidating editor, **Slim Jim Salicrup**, decided to give me two whole pages for the ol' Soapbox from now on! I don't know whether to feel flattered, or to figure he's just trying to work me so hard that I'll quit!

Anyway, since I've got all this space to roam around in, I'd better find something meaningful to say. (Although I've never found it before and *that* never stopped me!)

Tell you what—let's talk about one of my favorite characters—next to **Irving Forbush**, of course. He's a super hero who's been around for about 25 years and doesn't even have a gray hair in his head. Of course, in his "super" identity, he doesn't have any hair at all! How's that for a clue?

If you haven't guessed yet, try this on for size . . . he's one of the richest heroes extant! Are you zeroing in on him? Okay, this'll clinch it for you . . . He's probably the only Mighty Marvel Misfit who has to worry about getting rusty!

Bingo! You've GOT it! I knew you wouldn't fail me! It's Shell-Head himself, **the Invincible Iron Man**!

Let me try to guess what you're thinking. How come **Stan** calls him "Invincible" when the poor guy has taken more falls than Humpty Dumpty?

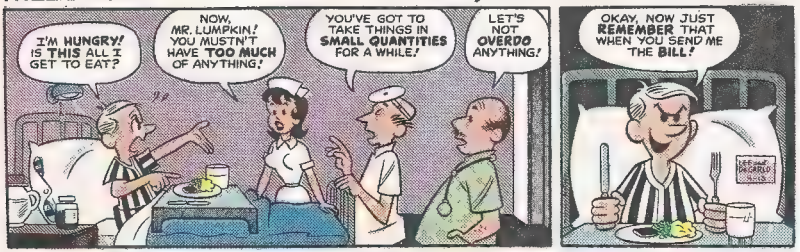
Well, you know me, I've always been a sucker for adjectives in front of a hero's name. That's why I dubbed 'em **the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, the Uncanny X-Men**, not to mention everybody's all-time favorite, **the Awesome Aunt Petunia**!

(Uh oh! It just occurs to me, if any of you don't know **the Thing**'s dear old Aunt Petunia, then that witty little bon mot will fall flatter than **Willie Lumpkin**'s wallet!) (And now I've gotta worry about whether you know who the Thing and Willie Lumpkin are! Do you still think it's easy to write these columns?)

But, back to our gold-plated gladiator. There's a big reason we're all excited about Iron Man these days. It's because we've got a brand new career lined up for him! What kind of career? I thought you'd never ask. We're gonna make a screen star out of him!

Look, you know how mixed-up Marvel always tries to be different. Well, everybody else is doing movies about robots; good robots, bad robots, even robots with identity crises who don't know if they're good or bad. But nobody's yet done an epic about a guy who *looks* like a robot, who everyone *thinks* is a robot, but who's as human as you or I! (Well, as you, anyway!) We figure we can make Tony Stark the biggest screen star since **Godzilla**! And he's better-looking, too—except, perhaps, to another monster!

Now let's move on to the heavy stuff. Our nifty new partners-in-pageantry, those wonderful wizards at New World Pictures, are as excited about the old rust-pot as we are and are anxious to put Shell-Head's adventures on film! The only problem is, do we produce Iron Man as a feature film or a T.V. series? (See where I'm leading up to in my own sneaky way? It's letter-writ-


I'M HUNGRY! IS THIS ALL I GET TO EAT?
NOW, MR. LUMPKIN! YOU MUSTN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF ANYTHING!
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THINGS IN SMALL QUANTITIES FOR A WHILE!
LET'S NOT OVERDO ANYTHING!
OKAY, NOW JUST REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU SEND ME THE BILL!

ing time!)

Okay! You know we'd never make a move without checking it out with you first. So dust off the ol' pen, pencil, typewriter, computer or smoke signals and let us know where you want the sensational **Mr. Stark** to thrill you next—on the giant screen at your local theater, or on your T.V. set at home?

Now here's where to send your masterful missives:

Iron Man
Department 52
(That's just to con you into thinking we've got lots of departments!)
New World Pictures
1440 Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles
CA 90025

Can't you just imagine all the big movie and T.V. execs at New World burning the midnight oil as they read your letters and cards, counting the votes and sticking pins in their little **Stan Lee** effigy for given them all this extra work?!!

But, speaking of those titanically talented New World film makers, ever since they teamed up with maniacal Marvel they've been busier than **Wolverine** searching for his lost nail file! In fact, here's a small hint of some of the new projects they're cooking up for us in the days to come—if you promise not to go blabbing about it all over town . . .

* A spectacular *live-action* X-MEN feature film!

* A dazzling **DR. STRANGE** *live-action motion picture!*

* A *live-action* **MARADA, THE SHE-WOLF** big-screen thriller!

* A *live-action movie starring* **BLADE, THE VAMPIRE HUNTER**!

* An *animated* X-MEN television special!

* A *LIVE-ACTION* original Marvel film called **DEATH-CATHLON**—soon to be a Marvel Graphic Novel, too!

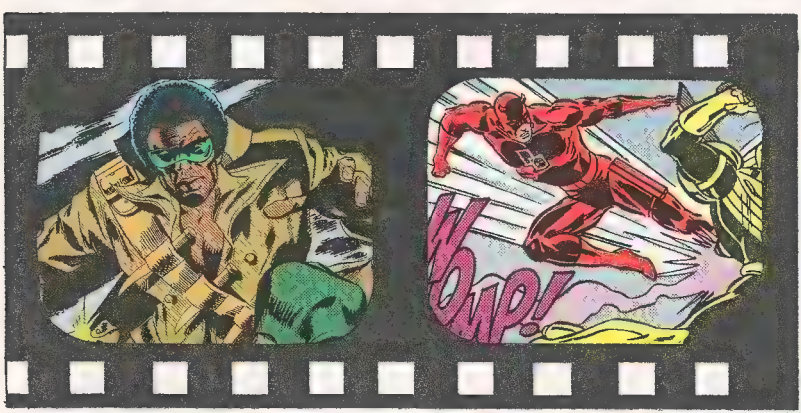
* And coming up later—**DAREDEVIL**, *live* on screen!

Know something? That's just for starters! With the fabulous creative geniuses of New World beside us, there's gonna be no stopping Mighty Marvel now! I'll keep you all on top of things right here in this column, with dates, names of actors and directors, plus all the show biz gossip I can latch onto, just as soon as that info can be released. So stay with us, hero, 'cause the excitement's just beginning—and the best lies straight ahead!

And now, until the Mighty Thor decides to pose for a Clairol ad, this is your ol' bullpen buddy, Smilin' Stan, wishing you health, wealth and happiness—plus one from Column B!

Excelsior!

Stan



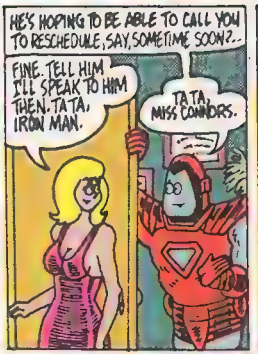
WELL, THAT SHOULD DO IT FOR TODAY. TIME FOR TONY STARK, INDUSTRIALIST, TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO--

--TONY STARK, PLAYBOY!!
MRS. ARBOGAST, WOULD YOU MIND RUNNING THROUGH THIS EVENING'S AGENDA FOR ME?..

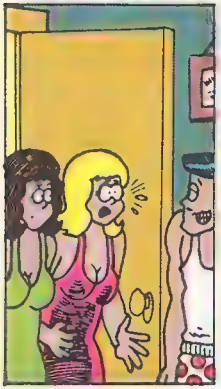
CERTAINLY, MR. STARK. YOU HAVE A DINNER DATE WITH A MISS BEVERLY CONNORS--
Ah, BEV, SUCH A SWEET YO--
--AS WELL AS A MISS VIOLET LEDGE.

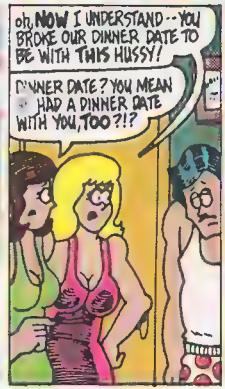
WHAT?!?
YOU'RE THE GENIUS MR. STARK...

oh! IRON MAN! BUT WHERE--
MR. STARK WAS ABRUPTLY CALLED AWAY ON SOME PRESSING FINANCIAL MATTERS, MISS CONNORS, AND HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS SINCEREST APOLOGIES.


HE'S HOPING TO BE ABLE TO CALL YOU TO RESCHEDULE, SAY, SOMETIME SOON?..
FINE. TELL HIM I'LL SPEAK TO HIM THEN. TA TA, IRON MAN.
TA TA, MISS CONNORS.

SORRY, BEV -- LUCK OF THE DRAW. NOW I'LL CHANGE BACK TO TONY AND PREPARE FOR MY DINNER WITH--




oh, NOW I UNDERSTAND -- YOU BROKE OUR DINNER DATE TO BE WITH THIS HUSSY!
DINNER DATE? YOU MEAN HAD A DINNER DATE WITH YOU, TOO?!?

HE DID -- BUT HE DOESN'T ANYMORE -- THE NO GOOD TWO-TIMER!

THAT GOES DOU
FOR ME!

DATES AT
AME TIME??
I AM I GOING
OF..
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL, MRS. A.. I'LL HANDLE THINGS...
...AS IRON MAN!!
HERE I AM, TONY, ALL READY FOR THAT BIG NIGHT ON THE TOWN YOU'VE BEEN PROMI--
OLET'S HERE, LUV, SO LET THE FESTIVITIES--
--BEGIN?!?...
..heh...
EXCUSE ME FOR BARGING IN, BUT I SEEM TO BE MISSING AN EARRING AND I WAS JUST WONDERING IF--
BLE
GOOD-BYE!
SLAM
MRS. A., YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT TONY STARK, PLAYBOY, WILL BE DINING IN THIS EVENING--ALONE!
I'D LIKE A LARGE PIZZA, EXTRA CHEESE, HOLD THE ANCHOVIES...

FANDRAL, HOGUN, VOLSTAGG WARRIORS THREE™

In regal Asgard, home of the mighty Norse gods, a desperate quest is in need of champions strong. To save the Realm Eternal, noble deeds must be done, foul wrongs must be righted, and fair damsels must be rescued. Only the greatest heroes of Asgard can hope to succeed 'ere evil win the day. Let the trumpets sound! Let the doves fly free! This is a task for **the Warriors Three**!

For those of you unfamiliar with these Asgardians, the Warriors Three are the mighty **Thor's** comrades-in-arms, **Volstagg**, the Voluminous, **Hogun the Grim**, and the dashing **Fandral**. They often go adventuring without the golden-locked Avenger and now they are about to embark on their greatest adventure yet.

MARVEL FANFARE will present an all-new, four-part saga of the Warriors Three starting with issue #34. It is written and illustrated by **Alan Zelenetz** and **Charles Vess**, the team that created THE RAVEN BANNER Graphic Novel, an epic Asgardian tale of tragedy and heroic redemption.

FANFARE editor Al Milgrom explained that each consecutive issue will feature a 22-page installment of the story, and a unique back-up feature. "The Warriors Three is a comic opera," Al said. "Comic in the sense of 'funny' as opposed to 'comic book.' It's the story of a lighthearted quest with some serious undertones and consequences should Fandral, Hogun, and Volstaag fail in their mission."

"This Warriors Three epic is much more lighthearted than our RAVEN BANNER Graphic Novel," Alan said.

"It's filled with puns, anachronisms, and lots of slap-stick humor. Artist Charles Vess and I work very well together. We're both romantics at heart when it comes to this sort of story. We're very comfortable in the realm of fantasy and mythology, so these opportunities are the perfect indulgence. And editor Al Milgrom brings his own eccentric sense of humor to the project as well."

The Warriors Three hear a prophecy concerning a young Asgardian couple. The prophecy contends that should the young gods not marry on a given day, at a given time, during a given ceremony, a terrible fate will befall Asgard—a fate that will ultimately lead

to the realm's destruction! "But in the beginning everything looks fine," Al said. "The young lovebirds are ready, willing, and able, so there's no problem in that direction. But there's one resident of Asgard who would love to see the prophecy come true. Loki, god of mischief that he is, is up to no good. He learns about the prophecy and decides he'll help out. After all, terrible fates should have allies, too, and it may be a little difficult to go through with a wedding if the groom is turned into a goat."

Parts one, two, and three of the story feature the individual adventures of each warrior before they all get together for the conclusion. Writer Alan Zelenetz explained, "This wedding, because of the prophecies surrounding it, is very important. In true mythological tradition, the god of evil hasn't been invited. And boy, does this upset Loki to no end! He decides to stop the ceremonies from taking place." If the wedding doesn't take place at the specific moment prophesied, then the god and goddess will be separated, marry other people, and have children who will one day bring about Asgard's destruction!

"But even with this grim prophecy and Loki's mischief marring the happy occasion, the tale is still light-hearted and funny," Alan said. "Each warrior must undo a portion of Loki's mischief before the wedding night, and each is thrown into circumstances that are very atypical for their own personalities."

Volstagg the Voluminous is large, rotund, a teller of tall tales (especially concerning himself), and a natural-born coward. The voluminous one is forced—possibly for the first time—to go out on an heroic adventure by himself, without Hogun and Fandral to assist him. His task is to dip the groom-turned-goat into an enchanted fountain. But the fountain is guarded by a race of werewolf-type creatures who won't let anyone approach their charge. "Volstagg is forced to recognize the cowardly role he always plays and must try to counterbalance it because of the circumstances," Alan said. "Editori-Al" summed up the first installment of the Warriors Three as a "somewhat amusing adventure where Volstagg's natural cowardice, or should we say good sense, battles with his sense of duty and ever-present sense of braggadocio."

The second part features Hogun, the grim master of the mace, in a situation where he's involved with little fairies and wood sprites. "It's a very un-Hoguneeque adventure and that could be the grim one's undoing. Hogun is used to battling dragons and giants but here the quest pits him against tiny creatures who steal his clothes and do all sorts of mischievous things," Alan sid, "Hogun must confront his own grimness to complete his portion of the quest, and he may even learn the value of a sense of humor if he succeeds."

Fandral, the dashing lord of the sword, stars in the third part of FANFARE's Warriors Three saga. Fandral has a reputation as a dashing ladies' man, a Don Juan-like character who dallies with all the Asgardian women. "But in this tale Fandral is forced to confront the consequences of his own light-hearted antics when one goddess falls seriously in love with him," explained Alan. "Over the course of the story he has had hundreds and hundreds of paramours. Most of the Asgardian goddesses take Fandral for what he is and ignore his flirty promises But one goddess takes his proposal seriously. When she realizes he has only been teasing her, she decides to commit suicide. She gave up her vow of chastity to please Fandral, and when she comes to the realization that he never had any intention of marrying her, death appears to be the best way out." Now Fandral must try to save the young goddess while coming to terms with his own carefree nature.

In the final part of the story the Warriors Three get together to face Loki in a final confrontation. The scheduled wedding is a short time away. Can Volstagg, Hogun, and Fandral overcome their own natures as well as Loki's to save Asgard? Find out in MARVEL FANFARE #34, 35, 36, and 37! Ah! Of such things are quests made and legends spun!

—Bill Slavicsek

EPIC. SPOTLIGHT

MOEBIUS

TM & © 1987 MOEBIUS

In what already promises to be one of the highlights of the 1987 comics publishing season, Epic comics will be reprinting the best work of French cartoonist **Moebius** in a set of six Graphic Novels. The Moebius volumes will be published bi-monthly, beginning in the second week of May, under the editorship of **Margaret Clark.**

The name Moebius may seem bizarrely exotic, though readers of HEAVY METAL and European comics will recognize it immediately as the *nom de plume* of **Jean Giraud.** Moebius is arguably the most highly-honored and well-known French cartoonist alive today, not only for the staggering amount of comics he's created since the mid-60s, but also for the visual design work he's done for films such as *Tron*, *Alien*, and Alexander Jodorowsky's never-completed version of *Dune*.

Born in Paris in 1938, Giraud showed a love of comics from childhood. Giraud produced his first comic strip in 1954 while still a student at the Technical School of Applied Arts. It was a western, entitled, "The Adventures of Franck and Jeremie." Giraud has drawn many, many pages of western comics since then, and is probably better known in Europe for his westerns than for his fantasy and science-fiction work so famous in America. Giraud went on to do work for the Catholic publication, COEURS VALLIANT, for two years before he was drafted. While in the French army, Giraud con-

tinued to draw for the military magazine **S/S**. He was discharged in 1960 and went back to his art career, creating what is probably his most famous comic strip, FORT NAVAJO, in 1963. Later retitled LT. BLUEBERRY after its dashing cavalry officer hero, Giraud created the strip (under the pseudonym Gir) in collaboration with comics writer **J.M. Charlier**.

Giraud began producing work under the name Moebius for the French humor magazine HARA KIRI in the sixties, and for the cartoonist-run magazine L'ECHO DES SAVANES and others. Most of the work contained in the Epic Graphic Novels was done by Moebius in the late 60s and into the 70s. And, in addition to the hundreds of pages of reprinted material, Moebius will also be contributing

new covers for each volume, and some new interior artwork.

The six Epic Graphic Novels will be 72 pages in full color for $9.95. The only exception will be the third volume in the series, which will reprint in its entirety Moebius's "The Airtight Garage." This 120-page Graphic Novel, which includes a new "Airtight Garage" page, will sell for $12.95. The only black and white story in the series is "The Detour," a hilariously surrealistic seven-page masterpiece whose beautifully drawn panels would only be obscured by color.

In order to ensure the highest quality possible, the Epic Moebius volumes will feature all-new coloring and translations. Moebius himself will be supervising and, in some cases, performing the coloring of the stories—some of which will be appearing in color for the first time. And the translation of the stories will be done by Moebius's assistant **Jean-Marc Lofficier** and his wife, **Randy**.

Editor Margaret Clark informed MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE that in selecting material for these Graphic Novels, the idea was to try to strike a balance between science fiction and fantasy, to present the broadest possible spectrum of Moebius's work.

The first volume will contain two stories, "The Repairman," and "Upon A Star." Volume 2 will feature **Arzach**, Moebius's enigmatic fantasy adventurer, including five new pages of Arzach artwork done specifically for this volume. Rounding out volume 2 will be a selection of fantasy stories.

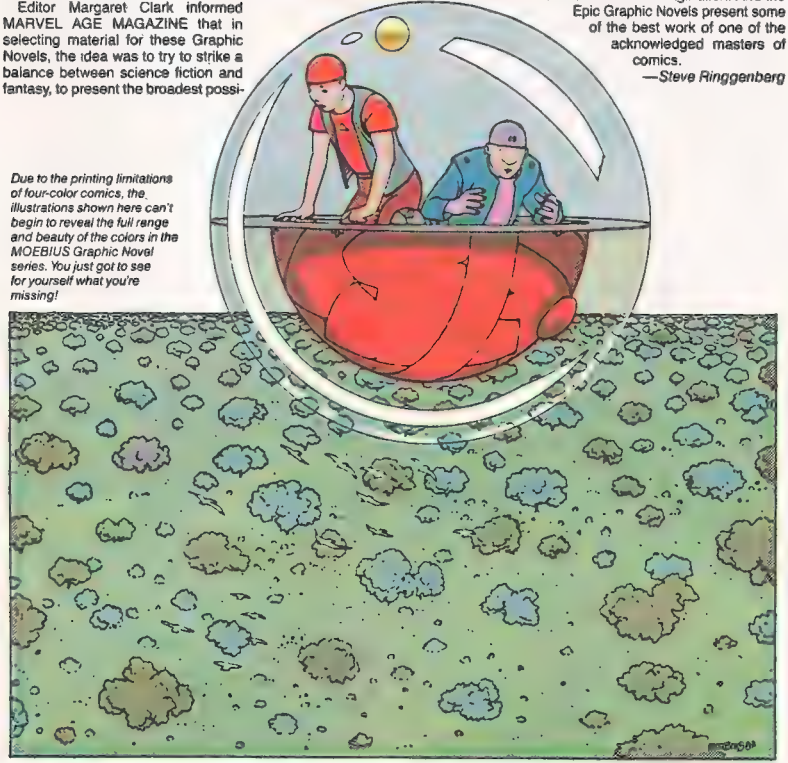
Volume 3 will feature the aforementioned "Airtight Garage" saga, an intricately-drawn, free-wheeling fantasy that must be seen to be truly believed. There has never been anything like the "Airtight Garage" stories in American comics.

The fourth volume in the series features "The Long Tomorrow," a *Bladerunner*-ish futuristic thriller written by *Alien* screenwriter **Dan O'Bannon**. Moebius met O'Bannon on the *Alien* set and suggested during a lull in the shooting that O'Bannon write a comic script for him to illustrate. Volume 5 is entitled "The Gardens of Adena," while Volume 6 sports an equally intriguing title: "Pharagonesia and other Strange Stories." Besides the stories, each Graphic Novel will contain interviews with Moebius and background on the individual stories.

A winner of many awards in Europe, in addition to being the recipient of an ACBA "Best Artist" award in the United States, Moebius is one of the most honored artists ever to work in comics. In addition to his superb draftsmanship and storytelling abilities, Moebius brings to his work a versatility that is astounding. He possesses a staggering arsenal of styles ranging from caricature and stark adventure to incredibly detailed fantasy. Moebius's impeccable command of the comics medium is further enhanced by his delightfully bizarre sense of humor and unequaled visual wit.

Moebius's work is pure comics, a breathtaking thrill ride into the terrain of his unfettered imagination. And the Epic Graphic Novels present some of the best work of one of the acknowledged masters of comics.

—Steve Ringgenberg



Due to the printing limitations of four-color comics, the illustrations shown here can't begin to reveal the full range and beauty of the colors in the MOEBIUS Graphic Novel series. You just got to see for yourself what you're missing!

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

This month, our New Talent spotlight falls on a gentleman by the name of **Frank Paur**. After admiring Frank's artwork submissions, some of which are pictured here, we found out that he is part of our West Coast team, already employed at Marvel Productions in Los Angeles.

Frank, 29, is the Story Director for the animated G.I. JOE adventures, currently in syndication all over the country. His role in the production of the series is to lay out the storyboards for each individual episode, a position which he has held for two years. Frank specified that his job is concerned more with motion than graphics.

"We're not as concerned with artwork as form, here," he said, "All the artwork is done in Japan. It's got to have a ring to it."

Frank has been involved in animation for six years (he was part of the animation team on *Star Chaser*, a film from a few years ago), but admits, "I'll always have a softness in my heart for comics."

Growing up outside Salt Lake City, Utah, Frank eventually attended Brigham Young University, after spending his later teen years as a Latter Day Saint missionary. Citing an old **Jack Kirby** THOR tale (#148) as a childhood inspiration of particular impact, Frank became interested in drawing as a boy. He later majored in Fine Arts Illustration at BYU. Although he has fond memories of Utah, Frank admits to loving L.A.'s "surf 'n sun" and faster-paced lifestyle.

Frank drew this **Black Widow** sequence about four years ago. Art Direction **John Romita** gave the following critique of the piece:

Frank shows a sense of drama and intensity, except for the mild reaction of the blonde on pages two and three.

He sets a scene well, but he fails to show elements which should be carried through subsequent scenes. For instance, where did the body go after page three, panel one? Also, the killer in the doorway in page three, panel one is eight feet into the room when Black Widow slugs him.

Also, the sequence on page four is not good after panel two. It reads down from panel three to four, then up to panel five, which is an unnatural reading sequence.

Panel five is unclear. It is too close-up for the reader to understand what is glass, window frame, drapes, or the villain's coat.

There is a feeling for glamor, with the blonde and Black Widow, but the latter could be prettier on page one, panel four, and page three, panels five and six (she's attractive in panel two).

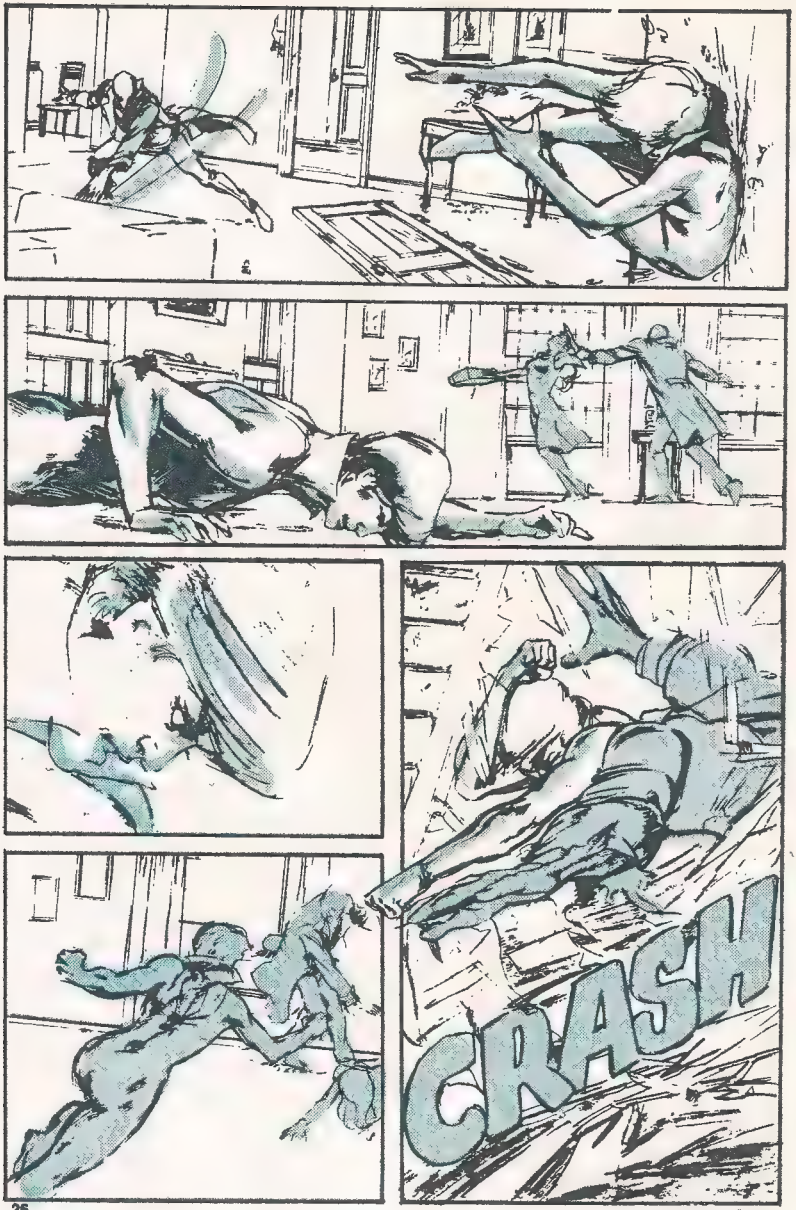
By and large, Frank shows a good foundation, and generally good figure drawing (except for Black Widow's arm on page one, and on page four, panel one).

Despite the intense, painstaking nature of his job, Frank plans to stay in animation. As he put it, "animation is so time-consuming that you have to love it to be in it."

—Chris Panzetta

Page 1

Page 2


CRASH

THE MARVEL AGE 1975 (PART II)

What was the biggest event in comics in 1975? What new title premiered which would become the standard by which other comics were judged? We'll give you a hint: it involved **Scott Summers**, **Charles Xavier**, **Ororo**, **Kurt Wagner**, **Peter Rasputin**, and a fellow called **Logan**. Any ideas?

The summer of '75 saw several new series premiering in the GIANT-SIZE format, and without doubt the most legendary of them was GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1. If by some chance you missed the retelling of the story in the recent debut of CLASSIC X-MEN, shame on you! You only missed another chance to witness how **Professor X** assembled a new team of mutants to rescue the original team, who were held captive by the living island of **Krakoa**. The new line-up, as assembled by creators **Len Wein** and **Dave Cockrum**, was truly international in scope. There was the African weather-witch **Storm**; the Russian, **Colossus**; the Irishman, **Banshee**; the Japanese, **Sunfire**; the German, **Nightcrawler**; the Canadian, **Wolverine**; and the Indian, **Thunderbird**, all led by the original X-Man, **Cyclops**. What a line-up of legends-in-the-making!

The rescue of the original X-Men posed a tricky question: what are we going to do with thirteen X-Men? The initial team members, though, felt it was time to move on, and of their number only Cyclops remained to captain the team. Sunfire hightailed it back to Japan, too proud to endure a team structure, which left Scott and Professor X with a leaner squad of mutants whose powers and abilities sorely needed training. Their adventures continued in X-MEN #94 and onward. The new X-Men saved the day when **Count Nefaria** and his **Anti-Men** commandeered the Doomsmith system, linchpin of America's nuclear arsenal. The day was saved, but at grievous cost—the death of **John Proudstar**, Thunderbird. It was not the last death the mutants would have to face.

Storm's encounter with a demon of the **N'Garai** ended the year for the X-Men, but demons would also return to haunt the X-Men on several occasions. Their adventures were now being scribed by mutant scripter supreme, **Chris Claremont**, whose record on X-MEN remains unbroken to this day! If you're missing the re-presentations of these amazing adventures in CLASSIC X-MEN, get to your local newsstand or comics shop without delay!

The popularity of super-hero teams began a steady climb upward in '75, and not just thanks to the X-MEN! Also premiering that summer was GIANT-SIZE INVADERS, which quickly spun into the normal-sized book, THE INVADERS. Longtime (and recently returned) Marvel scripter **Roy Thomas** got a chance to indulge his deepest passion, by retelling and elaborating the adventures of the great Golden Age heroes! The Invaders were **Captain America**, **Sub-Mariner**, and **the Human Torch**, back in the days of

World War II, and period detail and wartime references really set the scene for these incredible exploits! Their first tale saw them up against **Master Man**, the Nazi super-soldier created to be the German answer to our Cap. In defeating him, the team won the esteem of Winston Churchill, who christened them and would remain one of their staunchest allies.

Their next adventures pitted them against **Boner, Froh, and Loge**, Teutonic "Deities" created by the Nazi genius, **Brain-Drain**. **U-Man**, the renegade Atlantean who fought for the Axis, posed further problems for the team, and for **Prince Namor** of Atlantis in particular. But Namor had even more to contend with, when GIANT-SIZE SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP premiered! Dr. Doom sought to show Namor how they could restore the alliance that began way back in FANTASTIC FOUR #5. Namor was dubious about the team-up, and Doom was not above using extortion and coercion to further his goals. But common menaces brought them together, both in their GIANT-SIZE issues and in the continuing pages of SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP: menaces such as the humanoid hordes, **Tiger Sherk, Dr. Dorces**, and the evil **Attuma**!

THE FF's amazing year climaxed with the coming of the **Crusader**—a young hero on a rampage, out for revenge against those he held responsible for the death of his friend. His berserker fury caused him to overload his cosmic wristbands, and he was killed in the resulting explosion—but not before we learned he was actually **Marvel Boy**, lost hero of the 1950s! (It was also a big year for surprise revelations!) His wristbands would one day be passed on to the hero **Quasar**—and a supporting character introduced in this tale would one day go onward to a greater destiny as well: Johnny's new date, a flame-haired lass named **Frankie Raye**!

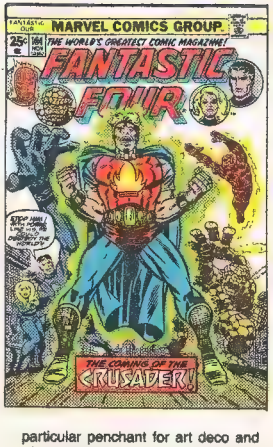
Another future legend debuted in GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR #4, as the FF met **Jemie Madrox**, the **Multiple Man**! Madrox, of course, was referred to Professor X at story's end, and can be seen these days in the current FALLEN ANGELS mini-series! Reprints from FF ANNUALS of past years finished out the run of GIANT-SIZE FF.

GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS, on the other hand, had more heroes coming and going than you could shake a stick at (if that's you're idea of a good time)! First **Daredevil** guest-starred as the Defenders battled the alien champions of the **Grandmaster**! The battles were a draw, but Daredevil finally won the day for the Earth on the flip of a coin! Of course, it helped that his super-senses enabled him to feel which side of the coin was which! Next, the **Squadron Sinister** made troubles for the Defenders, and in their final GIANT-SIZE issue, the **Guardians of the Galaxy** joined the Defenders to oppose the super-mutated creature known as **Eelar**! The Defenders were getting known by this time for their bizarre and unpredictable plots, and these tales were no exception!

Meanwhile, back in their regular book, the DEFENDERS opened the year defeating the **Wrecking Crew**, in their initial appearance! The Thing guest-starred in a crossover from MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, where they sought out the secrets of the **Valkyrie**'s human host—for in those days, Val occupied the body of a human woman, **Barbara Norriss**. And boy, did that have her husband Jack confused!

The **Headmen** made trouble for the Defenders next, but the non-team's primary threat in '75 came from the **Sons of the Serpent**. This group of radical racists threatened to unleash racial riots and war on America, and were only defeated by the Defenders with the help of **Power Man, Yellowjacket, Daredevil**, and the **Son of Satan**! The surprising revelation in this four-part epic came when the leader of the Serpents, the Supreme Serpent, was unmasked—it turned out to be **Pennysworth**, the financial executive who oversaw the business empire of **Kyle Richmond** (aka **Nighthawk**)! Power Man was disgusted because Pennysworth, a black man, had betrayed his own people—Nighthawk was disgusted with himself for his inability to see how his financial holdings had been maneuvered to serve the Sons of the Serpent!

Poor Kyle wouldn't get much chance to put his business affairs in order, though, for the Defenders were next swept into the future, to battle at the side of the Guardians of the Galaxy! The universe of the future had been conquered by the **Brotherhood of Badoon**, and the Defenders joined **Vance Astro**, **Charlie-27**, **Yondu**, and **Martinex** to free Earth in 3015 AD. They received unexpected help from the newest member of the Guardians, the enigmatic **Starhawk**, as well as from the benevolent (and hitherto unmentioned) **Sisterhood of Badoon**! Another four-part blockbuster, this tale made the Guardians so popular that they were awarded their own book, adding to the long roster of team books! That event wouldn't occur till '76, however. Meanwhile, the Defenders finished out '75 by making short work of **Tapping Tommy**, yet another wacky DEFENDERS nemesis, with a particular penchant for art deco and 1930s dance films. The DEFENDERS' tradition for strangeness moved courageously onward!



Only one team-up book remains to be covered in 1975—the exploits of the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing! MARVEL-TWO-IN-ONE featured the first half of that DEFENDERS crossover, with Ben and the Valkyrie battling **the Executioner**. A Christmas tale pitting Ben and the **Ghost Rider** against **the Miracle Man** came next, followed by the Thing battling the mighty **Thor**! **The Puppet Master** was behind the conflict, in another of his ceaseless (until recently) schemes to rid the world, and especially his dear daughter **Alicia**, of Ben Grimm.

A look into the past of the Black Widow was another TWO-IN-ONE highlight, as Natasha and Ben came into combat with her old flame, **Andrei Rostov**. The storyline of **the Golem**, from STRANGE TALES, wrapped up in TWO-IN-ONE, beginning a tradition in which Ben's series helped out discontinued titles to bring their plotlines to a logical close. And 1975 finished with the Thing and Iron Man versus the redoubtable **Prester John**! Ben's book was still bi-monthly at this point, but his increasing popularity would have his adventures coming at us on a monthly basis in no time.

That's the way the big trend toward team books wound up in 1975! But there were other trends continuing in that year, and next month, we'll take a look at the legion of monsters (catchy phrase, that) who headlined their own books back then! From **Dracula** and **the Werewolf** to **Modred** and **the Living Mummy**, there'll be a lot to explore! See ya then!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Some of the issues we covered this month have kept back-issue dealers in business for years! And why not? They're some of comics history at its best! Here's what you can expect to pay for these issues at your local comics specialty shop. Our thanks go again to our pal **Robert M. Overstreet**. As you know THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17 is out now, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of **Walt Disney's** "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." It's a handy reference book filled with facts for both the serious and casual collector. And it has so many black and white and full-color comic book cover reproductions that it's loads of fun just to flip through!

Don't forget, the list below is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **THE CHAMPIONS**			
1	.50	1.50	3.00
2–3		.50	1.00
■ **THE DEFENDERS**			
19–20	.25	.80	1.60
21–30		.50	1.00
■ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**			
154, 158–160	.30	.80	1.60
155–157 (**Silver Surfer** in all)	.35	1.00	2.00
161–165		.60	1.20
■ **GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS**			
3–5		.50	1.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR**			
4	.50	1.50	3.00
5–6	.30	.80	1.60
■ **GIANT-SIZE INVADERS**			
1		.50	1.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP**			
1		.50	1.00
2		.40	.80
■ **GIANT-SIZE X-MEN**			
1 (1st appearance new **X-Men**)	12.00	30.00	65.00
2	2.65	8.00	16.00
■ **INHUMANS**			
1		.50	1.00
2		.30	.60
■ **INVADERS**			
1	.40	1.20	2.40
2		.60	1.20
3		.35	.70
■ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE**			
7–10	.50	1.50	3.00
11–12	.35	1.10	2.20
■ **SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP**			
1		.60	1.20
2–3		.30	.60
■ **X-MEN**			
91–93 (reprints original X-Men)	.90	2.75	5.50
94 (new X-Men begin)	15.00	45.00	100.00
95 (death of **Thunderbird**)	7.35	22.00	44.00
96	5.00	15.00	30.00

JEFF NEELY'S LETTER COLUMN TITLE!

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

This month, our letter column title comes to us from (surprisingly enough) Jeff Neely of New Roads, LA. When Jeff gave us his suggestion, he asked, "Ain't it great?" Well, it looks pretty spiffy to us, Jeff!

As for the rest of you, keep in mind that we need a new letter column title each and every month. So if you've got any spiffy letter column titles lying around and gathering dust, send 'em on in! If we use your title, we'll print your name in this space and make you the envy of everyone you know! (Okay, *some* of the people you know.)

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've been collecting comics since I was about five when my uncle gave me a small box full of old ones (AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN, etc.). I'm seventeen now and have a few large boxes full on top of my cousin's similar collection. Our favorite comic book heroes are **Daredevil** and **Elektra**, which brings me to the subjects of this letter. According to your last ANNUAL, Daredevil was supposed to go west and join up with the Wacos (that's the **West Coast Avengers** to you laymen out there). Is this still happening or has it been given up on?

Now, about Elektra: Will **Frank Miller** be doing anything else with her other than her upcoming Graphic Novel? If not, is anyone else?

Until Daredevil gets a seeing eye dog, Make Mine Marvel!

David P. Stevenson
Lot 55 Riverbanks Pk.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

As you guessed, David, DD isn't planning on moving out west anytime soon. When writers change on a series, often plans change as well, and when Ann Nocenti, instead of Steve Englehart, became the scripter of DAREDEVIL, she figured ol' Hornhead had his hands full right where he was.

As for Elektra, we hope you've been keeping up with Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz's ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN series from Epic comics. Unlike the upcoming ELEKTRA Graphic Novel (which is set in the present), the Limited Series fills in some of the gaps in Elektra's mysterious past. ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN isn't for everyone, but we think it's pretty darn good.

Now, if we could only get the go-ahead to finally do the FORBUSH MAN: ASSASSIN series . . .

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have just finished reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #49, and when I looked on the back cover, I saw that my favorite MARVEL AGE feature ever had returned. (This is, of course, the MARVEL AGE calendar.) I'm glad to see that you have come back to your senses and hope that the calendar is here to stay this time.

Chris Ulichney
630 N. Washington St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Glad to be of service, Chris! Rest assured that as long as 1987 has months, there will be a MARVEL AGE calendar to chronicle them!

Dear Marvel,

Perhaps you can be of help to me—You see, recently, I bought a copy of MARVEL ILLUSTRATED BOOKS FEATURING SPIDER-MAN AND HIS GREATEST TEAM-UP BATTLES. I have been trying to keep an index of sorts for my Marvel Comics, including reprints and where those reprints were originally printed (e.g. MARVEL TALES #138 reprints THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1).

The book reprinted three stories: "The Speedster and the Spider," featuring **Quicksilver** out to redeem himself; "The Wondrous World of Doctor Strange" in which **Spidey** becomes involved in a battle with **Dr. Strange** and **Xandu**; and "A Friend in Need" in which the **Chameleon** masquerades as **Rick Jones** to trick **the Hulk** into breaking a friend out of jail and **Spider-Man** tries to stop him.

I know "The Speedster and the Spider" reprints AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #71, but I don't know where the other two stories originally appeared. I'd really appreciate any help.

Stephen Cade
1516 3 Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

Have no fear, Stephen, help is on the way! "A Friend in Need" first appeared in MARVEL TEAM-UP #27. And "The Wondrous World of Doctor Strange" was published 'way back in SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2, circa 1965.

Incidentally, you might find it handy to pick up the various OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX series. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, and MARVEL TEAM-UP have already been indexed, and there are more indices on the way. No need to thank us, pardner. Shucks, we was just doin' our job.

Dear Magnificent Masters at Mighty Marvel Magazines,

Lately, I've noticed that you great workers at Marvel Industries have "overkilled" a certain letter going by the name of:

X

You have many different comic books and characters with that letter. You have X-MEN, X-FACTOR, CLASSIC X-MEN, **Professor X**, and **X-Babies**.

What I want to know is, what's next . . .

X-LAX!?!

Until Spidey runs out of costumes, Make Mine Marvel!

Mathew Matera
29 Bigwood Dr.
Westfield, MA

Yup, Mathew, and then we're going on to X-TROVERTS, X-ECUTIVES, and a daring new series about mutant French philosophers in the late twentieth century, X-ISTENTIALISTS!

We could keep this up forever, but we'd better X-it before we get X-cessive. After all, we don't want you to get X-asperated.

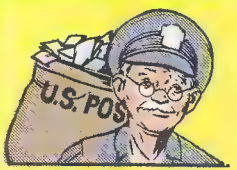
Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have a great idea for Marvel Comics. Since you made the comic X-FACTOR with the original **X-Men**, I thought it would be a good idea to make a comic with **Iron Man**, **Thor**, and the **Hulk**, the original **Avengers**. This would be a great comic since the new Avengers are nowhere near as good as they are.

Erik Lomabardo
113 North Pine Terr.
Staten Island, NY 10312

Sounds good to us, Erik, but it'd be a little tricky right now since Iron Man's in California, the Hulk's in the Midwest, and Thor's commuting between New York and Asgard. Still, your idea seems like a lot of fun, so maybe one of these days . . .

By the way, did you mean to skip Ant-Man and the Wasp? After all, they were among the original Avengers, too; it's just hard to tell they were there because they're so small.



And now, it's the moment you've all been waiting for—the debut of (ta-ta-ta-TAA!) THE MARVEL AGE PEN PALS COLUMN! In response to popular demand, we're setting aside this space for Marvelites the world over to exchange letters, ideas, and stuff like that there. Each issue we'll print the names and addresses of fans who are looking for pen pals. Drop them a letter. You might make a friend!

Here are our first six MARVEL AGE PEN PALS:

Chris Terry
321 Catherine Dr.
Westfield, IN 46074
Age: (Didn't say)
Favorites: (Didn't say)

Grant Sawyer
1 Wardell Rd.
Macon, MO 63552
Age: (Didn't say)
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, HEATHCLIFF, TRANSFORMERS

Chapin A. Ott (a.k.a. Chapstik)
7416 Madison
Forest Park, IL 60130
Age: 11
Favorites: X-FACTOR, CLASSIC X-MEN, G.I. JOE

Todd Reed
7419 Shiner La.
Houston, TX 77072
Age: 13
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, FANTASTIC FOUR

Cliff Gilley
7420 St. Hwy. 3 S.W. #22
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Age: (Didn't say)
Favorites: (Didn't say)

Jeremy Whittington
227 N. Elm St.
Sugar Grove, OH 43155
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, X-FACTOR

If you'd like to be a Pen Pal too, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to THE MARVEL AGE PEN PAL CLUB, c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE at the address atop this letter column. And remember, we need a snappy name for this column! So when you're writing down that other stuff, jot down a suggestion or two, too!

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, CALIBAN! IF THEY CALL, AND X-FACTOR DOESN'T COME...
...THEN X-FACTOR--THE MUTANT HUNTERS--THE GUYS THESE ADS ARE PROMOTING, WILL BE DISCREDITED!

And now (as you can tell from that nifty yellow background), it's time once again for our LETTER OF THE MONTH. Each month, we pick a letter (or sometimes two letters) which we think has something extra-special to say. Then, we print it in this space (which is a good way to distinguish real Letters of the Month from cheap counterfeits; only the genuine article is printed here!).

This month's Letter of the Month comes to us from a man who found that sometimes, comics and real life aren't that far apart . . .

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Things have quieted down. The year of the big 25 has passed. It was a big year for both of us.

We saw a lot of changes at Marvel. One thing that didn't change, however, is that you improved with (Marvel) Age. As usual, you found new directions, new ideas, and even new ways of presenting old ones.

Most particularly, I noticed you dealing with something you seemed to have been hesistant, even reluctant, to deal with in the past. Think about it. It was everywhere. Death. A lot like life.

Iron Fist died. **Captain America** took a life. In IRON MAN alone, at least three supporting characters died. The Mutant Massacre. Most touching of all was the death of a woman at the hands of **Spidey**. I could be wrong, but it seems there was more death in this year than in any single year in Marvel history.

I want to thank you where others may condemn you. In most cases, the subject was dealt with sensitively and sensibly. You see, during this year, I lost both of my parents. Marvel was there, like an old friend, giving me something to think about, understanding.

But there was something else, too. The birth of a whole New Universe. And lots of fun, and interesting and thought-provoking reading. Why, when **Johnny Storm** marched down the aisle, I too was married. Honestly, the same month!

I just wanted to thank you for being so good. Being the best just comes naturally with being so good. Thanks for being there.

G.A. Barnum
412 S. Eucalyptus Ave.
Inglewood, CA 90301

You're welcome, G.A. We were deeply sorry to hear about your folks, and we're delighted if our comics helped get you through a difficult period in your life.

And hey, congratulations on your marriage! We're big supporters of wedded bliss, as you may have guessed from the recent weddings of the Human Torch, the Sub-Mariner, Bruce Banner, Peter Parker, etc., etc. We expect to see some baby photos before too long, hear?

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **Yorgon Tykkio**, AIM scientist who may not be quite all human!
2. Marcy formerly worked for the Independent News Service.
3. **Arno Stark**, who's added some downright nasty accessories to the original Stark design!
4. Dr. Strange has never co-starred in an IRON MAN ANNUAL—but maybe next year . . .
5. **Jake Jordan**, young boxer.
6. **Ling McPherson**—whom I'm personally hoping we'll see more of now that Beth is appearing more regularly (are you reading this, David?).
7. **Commander Kraken**—maybe if he'd used his knowledge, he would have been too good a villain to bump off!
8. Tony's has not been the most secret of identities; of those listed, only Mrs. Arbogast isn't in on it. (Though sometimes those secreteries are sneaky . . .)
9. Nine issues of TEAM-UP; specifically, #9, 29, 48–51, 72, 110, and 145.
10. **Howard** and **Maria Stark**.
11. **Count Nefaria**, her father.
12. **Krissy Longfellow**—told you those secretaries can be sneaky . . .
13. For a mercifully brief period, Iron Man's faceplate actually sported—a nose!
14. **Mikas**, a creation of the mysterious **Mr. Kline**.
15. **Eddie March**—you may remember how we were set up to think he'd die in issue #22, only to see **Janice Cord** get the axe instead. (We're speaking metaphorically about Janice there . . .)
16. Tony Stark himself invented Cerebrus, which is why it became his responsibility to defeat it!
17. There was only one issue of IRON MAN AND SUB-MARINER, in April of 1968.
18. **Senator Byrd**, long since retired, used to hound Tony Stark to make Iron Man's technology public knowledge.
19. This was a tricky question, since lots of Iron Man's early enemies reported to communist leaders, but the right answer is—Madame Nastasha, the **Black Widow**!
20. **Professor Yinsen**, who worked with Tony to create the original, grey armor of Iron Man!

THE HULK A MUTANT?
NO, I'M ROCKY THE FLYING SQUIRREL!
NOW X-FACTOR IS REALLY CONFUSED
FIND OUT WHY IN...
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
336 & 337
TM & © 1997 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.

THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

JULY

THE BAR-B-QUE MONTH

MIKE CARLIN—WRITER RON ZALME—ARTIST PAUL BECTON—COLO

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
IT'S JULIANA FERRITER'S BIRTHDAY!
1
COLOR ME, HONORED!
2
SHOULDN'T I BE CALLED UNCLE MAN?
3
IT'S THE 4th OF JULY!
4
TOMORROW'S CRAIG ANDERSON'S BIRTHDAY! HE'S THE ONE IN PLAID!
8
9 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TRAFFIC MANAGER VIRGINIA ROMITA!
SS* DEADLINE POLICE
*SCHEDULE SQUAD.
YOU'RE LATE! LATE!! LATE!
FOR TERRY KAVANAGH'S BIRTHDAY--IT WAS YESTERDAY, TOO!
10
TODAY IS RON ZALME'S BIRTHDAY!
11
I LOVE DRAWIN' MYSELF!
AN' I LOVE BEIN' DRAWN!
15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAK ABLE!
EAT MY SHORTS!
16
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THE ARMADILLO
WRITE IN IF YOU
17 WANNA KEEP IT THAT WAY!
18
22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MIKE ROCKWITZ!
THAT'S SCHLOCKO TO YOU!
29
23 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KELLEY JONES!
24
25 YOU'D THINK A COMIC BOOK CALLED THE ETERNALS MIGHT LAST A LITTLE LONGER THAN IT HAS!
30
SUMMER TEAM-UPS WE'D LIKE TO SEE...
31
THANKS, BUB!
NO PROB!
ANYONE SEE A McPLANET'S IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

ORIST